

# HB 2647 HD 2 LATE

Measure Title: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

Report Title: Work for a Day Pilot Program; Appropriation (\$)

Description: Establishes a Work for a Day Pilot Program to be administered by the City and County of Honolulu that provides homeless individuals with work opportunities. Appropriates funds. Requires matching funds. (HB2647 HD2)

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: HMS/PSM, JDL/WAM

Introducer(s): C. LEE, FUKUMOTO CHANG, LOPRESTI, POUHA, SAIKI, TAKUMI



**LATE**

**EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS**  
HONOLULU

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
GOVERNOR

March 17, 2016

TO: The Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

FROM: Scott Morishige, MSW, Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness

SUBJECT: **HB 2647 HD2 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.**

Hearing: Thursday, March 17, 2016, 1:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

**POSITION:** The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness appreciates the intent and offers written comments in regard to this measure.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to assist homeless individuals in finding jobs by requiring the City and County of Honolulu to establish a pilot program connecting homeless individuals who are willing to work with job opportunities.

Section 2 of the measure would transfer funds to the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness if the City and County of Honolulu is unable to come up with a pilot program. The intent of this transfer of funds is to fund existing programs that assist homeless individuals in finding work opportunities.

While the role of the Coordinator is to establish and coordinate State policy to address homelessness, the Coordinator is not responsible for the direct administration and implementation of homeless programs, including the direct contracting of services. The Coordinator does not currently have the staff or capacity to directly procure, implement, and monitor contracts for services to transfer the funds. If this measure proceeds further, the

Coordinator suggests this measure be amended to transfer any remaining funds to a more appropriate office, which does possess the ability to procure, implement and monitor contracts.

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While the Coordinator appreciates the intent of this measure, it is also noted that this measure is limited to the island of Oahu, and would not address employment programs for homeless individuals on the neighbor islands. In addition, this program may duplicate the existing efforts of other public and privately funded programs that currently provide job opportunities specifically targeted at individuals who are homeless. For example, the Hawaii Community Development Authority currently funds a job training program that employs residents of the Next Step homeless shelter for janitorial and trash removal services in Kakaako Makai.

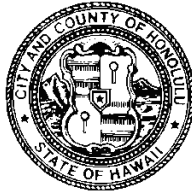
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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**LATE**

KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR



GARY K. NAKATA  
DIRECTOR

BARBARAYAMASHITA  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TESTIMONY OF GARY K. NAKATA, DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND  
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL,  
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS  
Thursday, March 17, 2016, 1:35 p.m.  
Conference Room 016

**HOUSE BILL 2647, HD2, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

**Position: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

TO: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and  
Military Affairs

The Department of Community Services (DCS) of the City and County of Honolulu (City) supports HB2647 HD2 with amendments. This measure establishes a three-year Work for a Day Pilot Program to be administered by the City and County of Honolulu that provides homeless individuals with work opportunities. DCS supports this measure because it encourages innovative ways to help homeless individuals.

DCS cannot support the provision requiring the City to match funds appropriated by the Legislature to implement this program. If the City is required to match funds, the City will not be able to work on this pilot program until the City Council approves a request to provide matching funds. Because the budget for FY2017 is closed, the City Council will not be able to consider approving matching funds for this pilot program until FY2018. While the City is willing to administer a program to help homeless individuals, the City does not believe that it should have to match funds to implement a program that is solely a legislative creation and which the City did not express a desire to implement. DCS urges your committees to provide funding without a matching provision to enable the City to come up with a pilot program by January 1, 2017, as required under section 2(d) of this Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support with amendments.



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Committee: Committee on Human Services  
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, March 17, 2016, 1:15 p.m.  
Place: Conference Room 016  
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of H.B. 2647, H.D. 2, Relating to Homelessness

Dear Chair Chun Oakland, Chair Nishihara, and Committee Members:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii (“ACLU of Hawaii”) writes in support of H.B. 2647, H.D. 2, which would establish a Work for a Day Pilot Program to be administered by the City and County of Honolulu to provide homeless individuals with work opportunities.

Homeless individuals encounter significant barriers in seeking employment in Hawaii. Many individuals do not have access to a car and thus rely on public transportation for job-seeking; as a result, these individuals must actually *pay* to apply for jobs and attend subsequent interviews. Homeless persons who are unable to use technology, the internet, and online employment databases face even greater difficulties in seeking employment. These factors may be further compounded by lack of childcare, education, and marketable skills and by chronic physical or mental illnesses or disabilities. Creating a program to connect homeless individuals with existing employment opportunities would help reduce these barriers and end the cycle of homelessness and poverty.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

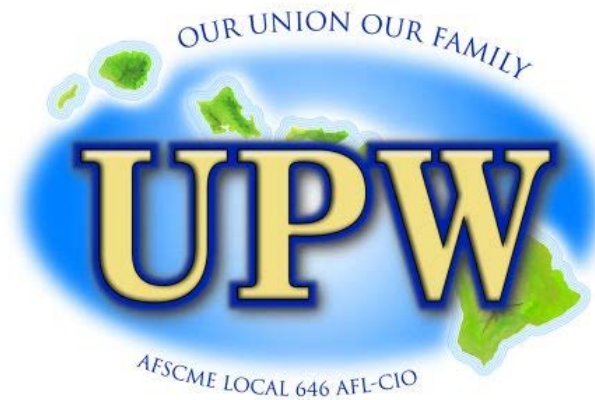
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mandy Finlay". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mandy Finlay  
Advocacy Coordinator  
ACLU of Hawaii

*The mission of the ACLU of Hawaii is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawaii fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawaii is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawaii has been serving Hawaii for 50 years.*

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**LATE**



THE HAWAII STATE SENATE  
The Twenty-Eighth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2016

**COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES**

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

**COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
The Honorable Will Espero, Vice Chair

DATE OF HEARING: Thursday, March 17, 2016  
TIME OF HEARING: 1:15 p.m.  
PLACE OF HEARING: State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Conference Room 016

**TESTIMONY ON HB2647, HD2 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

By DAYTON M. NAKANELUA,  
State Director of the United Public Workers (UPW),  
AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua, State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, and AFL-CIO. The UPW is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 12,000 public employees, which include blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 01 and institutional, health and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. The UPW also represents about 1,500 members of the private sector.

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The purpose of HB2647, HD2 is to assist homelessness individuals in finding jobs by requiring the City and County of Honolulu to develop and, if feasible, administer a pilot program with no term limits, connecting homeless individuals who are willing to work with job opportunities.

The UPW supports the intent of the bill to help homeless individuals find and keep work but has concerns over the lack of a finite term limit of the pilot program. Secondly, the methodology of training, (willing to work with job opportunities) is not described.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

**LATE**

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Committee on Human Services

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair

Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

RE: H.B. 2647, HD2

Date: Thursday, March 17, 2016

Time and Place: 1:15pm, Conference Room 016 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Introduction:

My name is Alyssa Foster, I am currently a graduate student at UH Manoa pursuing my Master of Social Work (MSW) degree. I am writing my second testimony on my own behalf testifying in favor of HB 2647, HD2.

Content:

I am providing a second testimony in favor of this bill after conducting interviews with case and outreach workers who provided insight and feedback regarding the proposed pilot program. After speaking with these individuals who have been working with Hawai'i's homeless community for a number of years I feel that this bill is a step in the right direction for addressing the issue. I am also now more aware of the scope that this pilot program could reach among the homeless community. This bill will not be able to address the severely mentally ill, for example but the bill will connect individuals who are homeless with services through paid work which provides an enticement for engagement. In the human service sector, the struggle is getting the services to people who need them most. Providing work and wages connects homeless individuals with service providers and starts the process of bridging those gaps.

Closing:

Hawai'i will be joining in a national and international effort to provide work and wages to homeless individuals by passing this bill. This bill will address a segment of the homeless population that will build upon itself making the effect greater with each successful connection made.

Alyssa Foster

UH Manoa, MSW graduate student

1516 Ward Ave. apt 607

Honolulu, HI 96822



**LATE**